

# Draft



PTO General Meeting  
3/06/2018 - Minutes

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 8:35am. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from 2/6/18 were reviewed. Ilse Rassin motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Kyrsten Crawford seconded and minutes were approved.

Principals Update (Dr. Shetzer):

- Students are taking a mock STAAR exam today, as requested by the district. Data from student exams will be used to determine those that may benefit from tutorials. Students in all academic levels may be included in tutorials, since a progress made data point is included in the STAAR scoring protocols and effects Pershing's performance indices.
- As many in attendance were aware, Mr. Carranza (HISD superintendent) resigned yesterday to accept a position with the New York City schools. At present, it is unclear how his departure will impact budget decisions. Dr. Shetzer will be attending a principal's meeting tomorrow.
- Although the budget deficit estimate has been reduced, Pershing will plan on running a 7-period schedule for the next academic year. Given some increase in discretionary funds, Dr. Shetzer was able to "buy back" a few teacher and administrative positions, but the school still faces a loss of 12 teachers. Using a 7-period schedule and current estimates of teacher numbers, class ratios will likely be around 30 students / teacher.
- Because of students being displaced due to Harvey, the school will also see an increase in Title I funds that will help manage the budget reduction.
- Computers and phones are currently out of service at the school.
- There was an incident with a student yesterday that resulted in an off-campus arrest. Dr. Shetzer informed parents that the student made some bad decisions, but her behavior was never a danger to any students on campus.
- Reminder of the vaping and prescription drug abuse education session (for adults only) on March 22, 2018. Dr. Shetzer noted that on campus use of e-cigarettes seems to have declined in recent weeks.

Dr. Shetzer opened the meeting to questions.

Regarding the decision to maintain a 7-period (as opposed to block) schedule: With foreseen teacher losses, a block schedule is not feasible. Class sizes would be too large. Also, the administrative team has put considerable effort into developing a schedule that works. To try to shift back to a block would slow their scheduling process considerably. Dr. Shetzer noted that a 7-period schedule has been shown to reduce discipline issues, but teachers will have to be mindful of homework assignments and efficient in their use of class time.

Potential use of a “modified” block: The 7-period schedule will offer the best alternative for our students given the expected loss of teaching staff. Because there is also some question about how final employee load will be calculated or adjusted after true attendance numbers are in, administration feels that the 7-period schedule will offer them the greatest flexibility with less confusion.

Reported issue of Pershing students loitering before school: Dr. Shetzer is aware of the issue and has warned a group of students that their behavior will not be tolerated. He will discuss possible addition of a morning constable patrol at the next Campus Park meeting.

Parent question about change in student behavior this semester: Dr. Shetzer noted that there has been an increase in students behaving in a disrespectful manner to teachers and staff. He questioned if this might be related to long-term stress from hurricane stress and property loss.

President: Beth Lane ([bethlane91@gmail.com](mailto:bethlane91@gmail.com))

There are numerous baseball fundraising activities coming up this week as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student / faculty basketball game.

Incoming Lamar High students: there is a course selection meeting at 6:00 pm tonight.

Dr. Crystal Collier from the Council on Recovery will speak to Pershing parents and teachers on March 22 at 6:30 pm.

Requesting volunteers for the 2018-19 PTO Board and committee chairs. We are in need of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities chair for next year, as well as chairs / committees to assist with Panda Camp and Panda uniform sale days.

Call for final questions.

Park Patrol: It was asked if the Campus Park patrol needed additional funds to assist with morning supervision. Beth Lane stated that she will discuss this and other options at the next Campus Park meeting.

Nominating Committee / parent involvement: Those attending the meeting were asked to tap into their feeder schools for potential volunteers for the 2018-19 school year. Currently, many positions are being filled by parents from Mark Twain Elementary. It would be great to have parent volunteers from other Pershing feeder schools.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06am